INFORMATION LETTER

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CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON MANPOWER IS APPOINTED

Senate Ends Open Hearings on Price Control—House Acts on Lend-lease Bill

Two legislative measures of importance to the canning industry were sent to conference by Congress during the past week—bills to set up manpower controls and to extend the life of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The manpower bill (H. R. 1752), which resolved into two basically opposite measures approved by the respective chambers, was sent to conference this week to iron out differences. Both the House and the Senate placed on the conference committee members representing the trend of thought on their respective bills. Senate conferees included Senators Thomas of Utah, Johnson of Colorado, O'Mahoney, Austin, and Burton, while the House named Representatives May, Thomason, Andrews of New York, and Short.

The House version would permit Selective Service local boards to channel any registrant 18 to 45 not in uniform into war industries, and all men in that age group, including veterans, would be frozen in their war jobs or in agriculture. The bill is reinforced by the Selective Service penalties of five years in jail or $10,000 for violations.

The Senate version gives statutory authority to the War Manpower Commission, sets up ceilings on numbers of employees and requires reemployment certificates. Employers who violate WMC regulations would be subject to penalties of a year in jail or a $10,000 fine.

The Senate Banking and Currency committee concluded its hearings on extending the OPA Act for 18 months (S. J. Res. 30), but expects to recall Chester Bowles, OPA Administrator, for several conferences in executive session next week. During the course of the hearings, the committee heard Mayor Florella LaGuardia, who said that the language of OPA regulations should be simplified, that the OPA should be combined with the War Food Administration, and that OPA should rewrite the regulations on poultry and eggs and enforce the low-priced clothing regulation.

Charles W. Holman, secretary of the National Cooperative Milk Producers Federation, said that a six-cent increase in the market price of butter, either as a price increase or as a subsidy increase, would solve the civilian butter shortage, and Howard C. Greer of the ment industry declared the industry is suffering heavy losses under existing price regulations.

Others appearing at the hearings on the OPA extension included James W. Haley, National Coal Association; Rufus Lusk, National Apartment House Owners Association; Russell B. Brown, Independent Petroleum Association of America; Ralph Goldsmith, National Retail Dry Goods Association; C. B. Roder, Mercantile Exchange; S. Clay Williams, R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company; and O. M. Ryan, American Hotel Association.

The House on Tuesday approved the Bloom bill (H. R. 2013) extending the life of the Lend-lease Act one year and

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LEGISLATION ON EXTENSION OF CCC NEARS COMPLETION

Conference Committee Gets Bills, and Senate Agrees to Continue RFC Subsidies

Continuance of the Commodity Credit Corporation with its program on production subsidies and resales at a loss was assured when the House passed H. R. 2023 on Monday and later sent it to conference to iron out differences with the Senate-approved bill (S. 398).

Meanwhile the Senate Banking and Currency committee reported out and the Senate passed S. 502, continuing certain RFC activities on consumer subsidies and Representative Harless presented a companion bill (H. R. 2539) in the House. The provisions of S. 502 were summarized on page 8349 of the INFORMATION LETTER for March 10.

Chief provisions of the House CCC bill included an increase in the borrow-

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1945 Crop Prospects are Better Than Average, BAE Reports—Citrus Fruit Production for 1944-45 Nears Record of 1943-44

The 1945 season has opened with crop prospects rather better than average in most States, and with only limited areas seriously handicapped by weather conditions, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics stated in its March crop production report. A large area that includes the Ohio Valley and extends southwestward into northeastern Texas is suffering from excessive rains and local floods. Rains have delayed field work and the planting of early crops in much of the South but as yet this delay does not appear serious. Florida is about the only eastern State now in need of rain.

There are some dry spots in eastern Oregon, southern New Mexico, Arizona, and other Mountain and Pacific Coast States, and preliminary surveys have indicated that supplies of water for irrigation may be below average in much of the Northwest, but only in limited areas does the shortage seem likely to seriously limit crop production, BAE said.

Fruit trees started growth earlier than usual in the South and they are exposed to danger from late frosts. Up to the first of March, damage to fruit trees from winter freezes and spring frosts appears to have been unusually light in the principal fruit belts of the country but unusually cold weather from Montana south to Texas during the first week of March may have caused some damage. Estimates of citrus fruits now being picked show small increases in California navel oranges, and Texas and Florida grapefruit. Including lemons, the total 1944-45 citrus crop will be about as large as the record crop of 1943-44 and prospects appear favorable for good production from the present bloom.

A record United States orange crop of 105,338,000 boxes is estimated for 1944-45 compared with 103,056,000 boxes produced in 1943-44 and 85,149,000 boxes in 1942-43. Florida tangerine production is placed at 4,100,000—a half million boxes more than last season but 100,000 less than harvested in 1942-43. Total grapefruit production is estimated at 51,191,000 boxes compared with the record large crop of 55,979,000 boxes of last season and 50,481,000 boxes produced in 1942-43. The prospective California lemon crop of 13,321,000 boxes is 21 per cent above last year's production of 11,038,000 boxes but 11 per cent below the 1942-43

crop of 14,940,000 boxes. The following table lists the citrus fruit production by States:

	1933-42 average	1943	1944 indicated
	1,000 boxes	*1,000 boxes*	*1,000 boxes*
Oranges:			
California, total	41,515	51,966	56,398
Navels and misc.	16,661	21,071	20,200
Valencias	24,854	30,895	36,198
Florida, total	23,890	46,200	43,500
Early and midseason	13,815	25,800	22,000
Valencias	10,075	20,400	21,500
Texas	1,852	3,550	3,850
Arizona	408	1,100	1,220
Louisiana	273	240	370
Total (5 States)	67,938	103,056	105,338
Tangerines:			
Florida	2,620	3,600	4,100
Grapefruit:			
Florida, total	18,060	31,000	23,100
Seedless	6,295	14,000	8,600
Other	11,765	17,000	14,500
Texas	10,392	17,710	21,000
Arizona	2,222	4,080	3,800
California, total	2,184	3,189	3,291
Desert Valley	973	1,198	1,316
Other	1,211	1,991	1,975
Total (4 States)	32,856	55,979	51,191
Lemons:			
California	10,970	11,038	13,321
Limes:			
Florida	75	100	250

Food Interim Committee of United Nations to Meet Soon

The United Nations Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture has announced that 18 nations have agreed to accept the constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. With only 20 acceptances needed to bring the constitution into force, the chairman of the Commission, L. B. Pearson, Canadian ambassador in Washington, reported that preparations are rapidly being completed for the first conference which will appoint a director general and determine the early tasks of the organization.

The nations which have accepted are: Australia, Belgium, China, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Philippines, Poland, and the United Kingdom. The United States has not yet taken action, but President Roosevelt in his February 2 message on the Bretton Woods proposals, indicated that the constitution of the FAO would shortly be submitted to Congress. Action is pending in a number of other countries.

The purposes of FAO are to improve agricultural production and distribution, raise the levels of nutrition and standards of living, and better the conditions of rural populations. It will facilitate cooperation among nations and serve as an expert advisory center which nations can use to help them achieve these objectives. An important part of the work of FAO will be to aid nations in adapting their agriculture to changing world conditions and to assist them in improving the efficiency of their agriculture and levels of nutrition.

PROCESSING GREEN PEAS

Acreage Increase of 12% Indicated by BAE Report on Intentions to Plant or Contract

Processors of green peas intended late in February to contract or plant nearly 12 per cent more acres in 1945 than were planted in 1944, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Should these plans be carried out, the acreage planted to green peas for canning and freezing will total 523,700 acres, compared with 468,790 acres in 1944, an average of 359,200 acres for the preceding 10-year (1934-43) period, and the previous record high acreage of 484,260 acres planted in 1943.

Canners and freezers in Maine, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania apparently intend to increase the acreage for this season about 21 per cent over their 1944 plantings. In Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa, an expansion of about 11 per cent is in prospect. Western States consisting of Colorado, Utah, Washington, Oregon, and California show 7.3 per cent more acreage and the South Atlantic area including Delaware, Maryland and Virginia may plant 5 per cent more acres in 1945 than were planted in 1944.

Loss of acreage planted to green peas for processing averaged 6.6 per cent annually during the past 10 years. If this average loss is assumed for 1945, a planting of 523,700 acres will result in about 489,100 acres for harvest, compared with 437,910 acres harvested last year.

The 10-year (1934-43) average yield of green peas for processing is 1,694 pounds per acre. For the more recent 5-year (1939-43) period, yields averaged 1,834 pounds per acre. The harvest of 489,100 acres in 1945 with yields in line with the 10-year average of 1,694 pounds would give a production of 414,270 tons for processing. Yields in line with the 5-year average of 1,834 pounds would result in a production of 448,500 tons. The 1944 total production was 380,320 tons.

The following table shows the acreages which will result if intentions to contract and plant green peas are carried out in 1945. Since these plans may be modified before plantings are actually made, they are *not* to be considered as estimates of the planted acreage for this season. They should be considered only as a guide in making adjustments in acreage plans before plantings are actually made, BAE said:

	Planted acreage 1944	Intended acreage 1945
	Acres	*Acres*
Maine	5,630	5,650
New York	43,400	54,300
New Jersey	4,200	4,200
Pennsylvania	16,500	20,500
Ohio	7,100	8,200
Indiana	9,000	12,600
Illinois	17,600	23,400
Michigan	12,500	12,000
Wisconsin	148,000	156,900
Minnesota	38,200	45,100
Iowa	3,650	4,700
Delaware	3,000	3,300
Maryland	12,000	12,600
Virginia	2,900	2,900
Colorado	5,120	5,270
Utah	16,300	16,300
Washington	51,950	56,100
Oregon	52,400	58,200
California	5,410	5,100
Other States	13,930	16,380
Total	468,790	523,700

California and Texas Spinach Production Shows Slight Drop

Spinach processors in California and Texas reporting to the U. S. Department of Agriculture late in February indicate a production of 56,850 tons is in prospect for processing in these States in 1945, according to the latest report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This is 3 per cent less than the 1944 production of 58,400 tons but exceeds the 10-year (1934-43) average production of 42,790 tons by 33 per cent.

The acreage of spinach in California and Texas from which spinach is expected to be used in 1945 for processing will total 17,660 acres. This compares with 17,480 acres in 1944 and the 10-year (1934-43) average of 17,500 acres.

Indicated yield in 1945 is 3.22 tons per acre. The 1944 yield was 3.33 tons, and the 10-year (1934-43) average yield is 2.45 tons per acre. The following table compares last year's planted acreage with this year's, and the 1944 actual production with the 1945 indicated production in the two States:

	Planted acreage		Production	
	1944	1945	1944	1945
	Acres	*Acres*	*Tons*	*Tons*
California	11,480	12,160	49,400	48,600
Texas	6,000	5,500	9,000	8,250
Total	17,480	17,660	58,400	56,850

WFA Withdraws Milk Offer

The War Food Administration has withdrawn from sale, under the present terms and conditions, approximately 100,000 cases of canned evaporated milk which have been offered to industrial users at $2 a case, delivered.

WFA to Accept Bids on Canned Green Beans for First Time

The War Food Administration is re-offering for sale to all green bean canners, wholesale food distributors who normally handle this commodity, hotel and restaurant suppliers and State purchasing agents approximately 120,036 cases of canned green beans.

Offered on an invitation-to-bid basis, these beans are a part of the 400,000 cases of beans to be offered for civilian consumption as rapidly as grade and condition are determined. The beans now being offered previously have been offered for sale to both the original and competitive canners and to established food distributors, and are the first sizeable lot of canned foods to be offered the distributive trade on a bid basis.

Bids should be received not later than 5 p. m., EWT, March 29, by the Contract Development Section, Procurement and Price Support Branch, CCC, War Food Administration, Washington 25, D. C. Further information can be obtained from Thomas R. Mylott of the Sales Branch, CCC, War Food Administration, Washington 25, D. C., or by telephoning Republic 4142, extension 4956, in Washington.

OPA to Follow WFA Support Program in Pricing Snap Beans

A revised price structure for the 1945 pack of canned snap beans based on classifications of varieties and sieve sizes was discussed by Office of Price Administration representatives with members of the Canned Green and Wax Bean Industry Advisory Committee at a recent meeting in Washington, D. C.

In the new price structure, OPA said, snap beans will be classified in four groups: Poles (including Blue Lake); Refugees; rounds and wax; flats and black-seeded rounds. In addition, the price structure will be further broken down into sieve sizes and grades of all varieties on a larger scale than was in effect in last year's program. The proposed new program is designed to promote production of better quality beans in all varieties and to conform as closely as possible to variety and grade support prices recently established by the War Food Administration, OPA explained.

The committee elected, as its chairman, R. D. Cleaveland of the H. J. McGrath Company, Baltimore, Md. Other members of the committee are:

W. C. Kunzman, Kuner-Empson Co., Brighton, Colo.; Fred C. Bush, Bush Brothers and Co., Dandridge, Tenn.; A. P. Dorgan, Jr., Dorgan Packing Co., Biloxi, Miss.; Norman O. Sorenson, Country Gardens, Inc., Milwaukee, Wis.; Porter Lucas, Nelson Canning Co., Crane, Mo.; L. H. Moore, L. H. Moore Co., McAllen, Tex.; A. L. Reiling, General Foods Corp., Hillsboro, Ore.; T. Stran Summers, Charles G. Summers, Jr., Inc., New Freedom, Pa.; and J. F. Heidenreich, Eugene Fruit Growers Assoc., Eugene, Ore.

WFA Names New Labor Director

War Food Administrator Marvin Jones has designated Lieut. Col. Wilson R. Buie to succeed Brig. Gen. Philip G. Bruton as WFA's Director of Labor on or about March 25 when General Bruton returns to duty with the Corps of Engineers, United States Army. Colonel Buie, like General Bruton, has been on loan to WFA from the Corps of Engineers, has served as Assistant Director of Labor since May, 1943. Lieut. Col. Henry Walsh, another Corps of Engineers officer who has been on loan to WFA as an Assistant Director of Labor, also will return to active Army duty later this month.

General Bruton came to the War Food Administration when it was established two years ago, and since June, 1943, has been in charge of WFA's Office of Labor. In this capacity he has directed the program of bringing foreign workers into this country to alleviate the farm labor shortage.

Colonel Buie had followed his profession of civil engineer continuously from the time he left the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1912 to June, 1942, when he was commissioned a Major in the Army. He was at that time serving in Newfoundland under General Bruton, who was directing the construction of Atlantic defense bases.

Canners League Officers

Officers of the Canners League of California, as elected by its board of directors on March 9, are President, F. M. Drew; Executive Vice President, M. A. Clevenger; Vice Presidents, A. W. Eames, W. A. Gellerson, W. S. Everts, and Preston McKinney; Treasurer, A. R. Plummer; Secretary, Sylvia Kempton.

At his own request, Preston McKinney, after 26 years of service, ceases to be executive vice president but remains, on a part-time basis, as a vice president in an advisory capacity.

Canned Tomato Juice Offered

The War Food Administration is offering for sale to the original canners approximately 2,778 cases of 1942 pack, Fancy grade, canned tomato juice. The original canners will have until 5 p.m., EWT, March 19, to submit offers to purchase to the Sales Branch, Commodity Credit Corporation, War Food Administration, Washington 25, D. C.

Byrnes Names Inter-Agency Committee to Control Exports

Director of War Mobilization and Reconversion James F. Byrnes has announced the formationu of an inter-agency committee to carry out a program designed to control exports to foreign countries, other than direct military commitments. The committee is "to examine all of the related factors which pertain to the capabilities of the United States to export items for the support of the war other than direct military commitments" and conduct an investigation of the conditions confronting transportation facilities within the United States.

Leo Crowley, Administrator of the Foreign Economic Administration, has been named chairman of the committee which is composed of the following: Will L. Clayton, Assistant Secretary, Department of State; Capt. G. Conway, War Shipping Administration; J. A. Krug, War Production Board; Lt. Gen. Brehon Somervell, War Department; Judge Marvin Jones, War Food Administration; and Capt. L. H. Strauss, Navy Department.

Director Byrnes in announcing the appointment of the committee said that "it will be the duty of this committee to program American exports in relationship to the requirements of our own civilian economy to make sure that their impact does not reduce our own capabilities to support our war effort and meet our own essential needs.

"It is apparent that the shipment of food for relief purposes from the United States must be correlated with the shipment of industrial equipment and raw materials to obtain the best use of shipping and, at the same time, to avoid commitments which will require the use of shipping needed for the war effort," Mr. Byrnes added.

The decisions which the committee makes concerning foreign demands for food and other supplies will have a substantial effect on the domestic supply. If the committee decides to agree to the foreign food relief demands in excess of the present WFA allocations, it may result in a further reduction of civilian food supplies in this country. Because of the many international complications involved, informed sources feel that the committee might have to call for further sacrifices on the civilian food front in order to meet the existing commitments which the United States has made concerning the feeding of liberated areas and allies.

Rotenone Supplies Cannot Be Increased in 1945, WPB Says

Rotenone supplies for the current crop year (October 1944 through September 1945) will be approximately the same as for the previous year, War Production Board officials told members of the Rotenone Processors Industry Advisory Committee at a recent meeting.

Shipping facilities for importing the unprocessed rotenone from South America still constitute a problem, WPB officials said. However, supplies of rotenone for essential commercial, farm, home and victory garden insecticide requirements are expected to be available, they indicated.

There are no restrictions on the permissible rotenone content of insecticides during the current agricultural year, as the result of a policy adopted jointly with the War Food Administration, WPB pointed out. This policy is intended to enable manufacturers to offer finished insecticides having a rotenone content necessary for adequate crop protection.

Since WFA has requested that the same agricultural uses for rotenone insecticides be permitted as for the previous year, WPB has suggested that the same labeling be used on the insecticide packaged this year. WPB said the labels should list only those permitted uses for which the packaged product is suitable.

Permitted uses for rotenone on commercial crops established by WFA follow:

Peas (food, seed, and Austrian)—for the pea weevil and the pea aphid; cabbage and other cole crops—for worms, aphids, flea beetles and harlequin bug; beans—for bean beetles; asparagus—for asparagus beetles on market shoots; sweet corn—for European corn borer; peaches, grapes and small fruits—for Japanese beetles; strawberries—for spittle bug; raspberries—for raspberry fruit worm; cherries—for fruitfly; blueberries—for blueberry maggot; currants and gooseberries—for the gooseberry fruit worm.

Set Ration Procedure for Imported Foreign Laborers

Canners who feed laborers brought into the United States by a government agency may apply for allotments of rationed foods for these workers, the Office of Price Administration has announced. This provision, effective March 15, through the issuance of Amendment 98 to General Ration Order No. 5, is made because War Ration Book 4 can no longer be issued to these workers, OPA said.

As in the case of institutional users, allotments made under this amendment will be limited to a period of approximately two months. If the imported workers are hired for more than one allotment period, additional applications may be made for each period the imported workers are employed.

Applications should be made to the local War Price and Rationing Board in the area where the farm or ranch on which the workers are employed is located.

More Prisoners for Farmers

War Food Administrator Marvin Jones has appealed to farmers to plant the full crop acreage called for in this year's goals, and renewed WFA's pledge of full cooperation in obtaining the labor needed for cultivating and harvesting all the crops planted.

Pointing to the War Department's announcement of March 3 that 100,000 additional German prisoners of war are to be brought to the United States, Judge Jones said he expected that about 30,000 of these prisoners would be available to farmers in labor-deficit areas this summer and fall. This will increase the anticipated supply of war prisoners for farm work to 100,000 at the harvest peak. The largest number of prisoners used in agriculture last year was approximately 70,000.

Judge Jones also stressed that even more non-farm people and foreign workers again will be needed for emergency farm work during 1945.

Substitute Foods for Prisoners

Lt. Gen. Brehon Somervell, chief of the Army Service Forces, has directed commandants of the Army's prison camps to use substitutes for meat, butter, canned fruit, and other scarce items in the diet of prisoners of war.

Gen. Somervell directed the commandants to make every effort to put on prisoner menus such items as salted fish, eggs, spaghetti, macaroni, beans, and cold meat cuts as replacements for beef, pork, ham, lamb, bacon, chicken and other meat cuts which are hard for civilians to obtain. Oleomargarine is to be substituted for butter, syrup for sugar in cooking, and substitutions are to be made as far as possible for canned fruits, vegetables, jellies and other such processed foods in short supply.

Farm Labor at Lowest Level

Snow-cover still hampered field work in the more northern portions of the country and wet fields retarded Spring plowing in many other sections, but the number of persons employed on farms made about its usual seasonal rise during February, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported March 13. About 8,400,000 persons were working on farms on March 1 of this year. This represented an increase of around 360,000 persons during February compared with an average seasonal upturn of 332,000 workers during the month in the 10 years, 1935-44. Having increased from a very low midwinter level, however, March 1 farm employment was still nearly 150,000 persons less than a year ago and the lowest estimated for the month during the 21 years of record.

WFA Orange Juice Offers

The War Food Administration is offering for sale on an invitation to bid basis to all orange juice canners, State purchasing agents, and wholesale food distributors of this commodity approximately 11,566 cases of 1943 pack orange juice. Bids should be received not later than 5 p.m., EWT, March 26, by the Sales Branch, CCC, War Food Administration, Washington 25, D. C.

Frozen Fruit and Vegetable Stocks Held in Cold Storage

Stocks of frozen fruits in storage on March 1, 1945, totaled 217,859,000 pounds against 242,253,000 on February 1, 1945, and 186,067,000 on March 1, 1944, according to the War Food Administration. Frozen vegetable stocks on March 1, 1945, were 124,484,000 pounds against 145,622,000 on February 1, 1945, and 153,820,000 on March 1, 1944. The following table furnished details by commodities:

	Mar. 1, 1944	Feb. 1, 1945	Mar. 1, 1945
	1,000 lbs.	*1,000 lbs.*	*1,000 lbs.*
FROZEN FRUITS			
Apples	.....	40,820	45,825
Blackberries	6,263	9,316	7,144
Cherries	14,215	28,138	22,966
Young, Logan, Boysen	3,290	8,134	6,583
Raspberries	13,140	11,039	9,424
Strawberries	16,783	17,541	14,577
Grapes	.....	16,216	13,268
Plums and prunes	.....	12,251	11,244
Peaches	.....	26,532	21,098
Fruit juices and purees	.....	15,945	15,074
All other fruits	132,376	56,321	49,756
Total	186,067	242,253	217,859
FROZEN VEGETABLES			
Asparagus	4,009	4,890	4,061
Beans, lima	8,499	10,312	8,229
Beans, snap	12,284	13,590	11,291
Broccoli	2,861	4,560	6,204
Cauliflower	.....	2,779	2,936
Corn, sweet	13,116	16,939	14,559
Peas, green	35,325	37,403	29,540
Spinach	10,476	14,799	11,648
Brussel sprouts	.....	3,366	2,847
Pumpkin and squash	.....	7,163	6,837
Baked beans	.....	3,069	2,375
Vegetable purees	.....	568	542
All other vegetables	67,250	26,184	23,415
Total	153,820	145,622	124,484

LEND-LEASE EXTENSION

(Concluded from page 8551)

added on the floor a committee amendment which specified that the language of the present act does not authorize the President to enter into or carry out any contract or agreement with a foreign government for post-war relief, rehabilitation, or reconstruction. However, an exception was made that contracts or agreements which cover defense articles, services or information for use in the present war and which provide for the disposition of such items no longer necessary for use, shall not be classified under post-war activities.

An agricultural inquiry into all phases of food production, processing, transportation and consumption, similar to the Flannagan inquiry recently approved by the House, is proposed in S. Res. 92, introduced by Senator Thomas, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

The insurance bill (S. 340), which gives the insurance business three years grace from the Supreme Court's decision last Spring while States write insurance laws to conform with it, was signed by the President.

The House began consideration on Wednesday of H. R. 2603 appropriating funds for the Departments of State, Justice, Commerce, the Judiciary, and the Federal Loan Agency for the fiscal year. Meanwhile, the Senate passed the Independent Offices appropriations bill on Thursday.

Senator Thomas of Utah on Monday introduced S. J. Res. 45 to extend the effective period of the Selective Service Act.

Representative Walter of Pennsylvania has introduced a bill (H. R. 2629) which would permit Congressmen to attend all hearings and conferences of executive agencies which are open to persons affected by a particular law of Congress. The bill appears to have developed from the barring of members of the House from a recent conference of the OPA with an industry advisory committee and the explanation made by Administrator Bowles in a letter to Congressmen.

Demurrage Charge Order

The Interstate Commerce Commission on March 15 reinstated, effective April 1, its Service Order No. 242 placing heavy demurrage charges on the loading and unloading of box cars. The order provides that after the expiration of the free time allowed by tariffs, demurrage charges on a closed box car, included in an average agreement, held for loading or unloading, which is not loaded or unloaded within the free time, shall be $2.20 per car per day or a fraction thereof for the first two days; $5.50 per car per day or a fraction thereof for the third day; $11 per car per day or fraction thereof for the fourth day; and $16.50 per car per day or a fraction thereof for each succeeding day.

CCC BILL NEARS PASSAGE

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ing limitation from three to five billion dollars and the Wolcott amendment which would increase payments on dairy products to $568,000,000 and on non-crop programs to $120,000,000 for the fiscal year, provide for interchange of funds up to 10 per cent between the different programs, and write in a formula for payments on dairy products.

The Senate bill (see INFORMATION LETTER for February 3) contained many provisions limiting the activities of the Corporation in case the war should end, and limiting the non-crop and dairy programs to a six-month period ending December 31, 1945, with funds for non-crops set at $60,000,000 and for dairy products at $250,000,000. The House bill provides that these funds are for the making of subsidy payments and the purchase of commodities for resale at a loss, while the Senate bill states the funds are for subsidies and resales at a loss for the purpose of maintaining maximum prices. The Wolcott amendment included in the House bill follows:

Provided, That the making of subsidy payments and the buying of commodities for resale at a loss, by the Commodity Credit Corporation shall be limited as follows:

Obligations for making such payments and absorbing such losses may be incurred and paid by the Commodity Credit Corporation (a) in such amounts as may be necessary (1) to complete operations with respect to 1944 and prior year crop programs and (2) to fulfill obligations incurred prior to July 1, 1945, with respect to 1945 and prior fiscal year non-crop programs; and (b) in amounts which do not involve subsidy payments or losses in excess of (1) $568,000,000 for operations during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1946, with respect to the dairy production payment program, (2) $120,000,000 for operations during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1946, with respect to other non-crop programs, including the feed-wheat program, and (3) $225,000,000 with respect to the 1945 crop program operations: Provided, That not to exceed 10 per cent of each amount specified in clauses (b) (1), (2), and (3) shall be available interchangeably for the operations described in such clauses but in no case shall the total subsidy payments and losses absorbed under any one of such clauses be increased by more than 10 per cent.

Provided further, that in carrying out the dairy production payment program, beginning April 1, 1945, the rate of payment per pound of butterfat delivered shall not be less than 25 per cent of the national weighted average rate of payment per 100 pounds of whole milk delivered.

Conferees on the CCC bill appointed by the Senate include Senators Wagner, Bankhead, Radcliffe, Tobey, and Taft, while House conferees are Representatives Spence, Brown of Georgia, Patman, Wolcott, and Crawford.

Information developed during debate on the Commodity Credit bill as to activities and alleged leaks on future plans of the Corporation resulted in the introduction of several resolutions calling for Congressional investigation. Representative Crawford introduced H. J. Res. 180 authorizing an inquiry into the Commodity Credit Corporation and Representative Keefe introduced H. J. Res. 181 authorizing an investigation of both the Corporation and the War Food Administration.

Wage Rate for Orange Picking

A maximum wage rate of 15 cents per standard field box or equivalent cubic inch capacity has been set by the War Food Administration's director of labor for tree-picking Valencia oranges in Fresno, Tulare and Kern counties of California.

WFA Offers Pork and Beans

The War Food Administration is offering for sale to all canners of pork and beans approximately 46,139 cases of standard grade, 1942-pack pork and beans packed in tomato sauce. The beans, packed 24 No. 2½ cans to the case, were canned in Maryland and are stored in Baltimore. Offers to purchase should be received by the Sales Branch, CCC, War Food Administration, Washington 25, D. C., not later than 5 p.m., EWT, March 26.

Frozen Pea and Lima Grades

The War Food Administration has revised its tentative United States Standards for grades of quick frozen green peas and lima beans. Copies of the standards, which became effective March 15, may be obtained by writing F. L. Southerland, Acting Chief, Processed Products Standardization and Inspection Division, Fruit and Vegetable Branch, War Food Administration, Washington 25, D. C.

OPA SETS NEW CEILINGS ON TWO CANNED MEAT ITEMS

Revised maximum prices for canned Miasnaia Tushonka and canned beef and gravy have been announced by the Office of Price Administration through the issuance of Amendment 3 to Revised Maximum Price Regulation 156, effective March 15. The action slightly lowers the prices for canned Tushonka, but slightly increases the ceilings for canned beef and gravy. Canned Vienna sausage and canned corned beef also are covered by the amendment, but prices for these products were not changed. Text of the amendment follows:

Revised Maximum Price Regulation No. 156 is amended by changing section 14 to read as follows:

SEC. 14. *Ceiling prices for certain canned meat products sold to war procurement agencies.* (a) The ceiling price of each of the following canned meat products prepared according to United States Government specifications for sale or delivery to a war procurement agency shall be the price stated in the price table in this paragraph (a) of section 14. All prices are stated f.o.b. the seller's shipping point.

	Price per dozen cans
1. Vienna sausage:	
(i) Skinless, 24-oz.	$6.00
(ii) Sheep casings, 24-oz.	6.50
2. Corned beef, 6-lb	28.50

(b) The maximum prices for the following canned meat products prepared and canned in accordance with government specifications and packed in approved shipping containers for sale or delivery to a war procurement agency shall be the applicable one of the prices stated in the price table in subparagraph (1) of this paragraph (b) for the zone in which the seller's shipping point is located, and the type of shipping container used. For the purposes of this paragraph (b) the boundaries of the zones listed herein shall conform to the boundaries of the zones similarly numbered and defined in § 1364.452 of Revised Maximum Price Regulation No. 169.

(1) *Table of prices.* [NOTE: All prices are on a per dozen basis, f.o.b. the seller's shipping point.]

(i) *Beef and gravy, braised or unbraised, 30 oz. cans.*

Zones	Nailed solid wood boxes, 40-70 lbs. Braised	Nailed solid wood boxes, 40-70 lbs. Unbraised	V-1, V-2 fiber box with sleeve, 40-70 lbs. Braised	V-1, V-2 fiber box with sleeve, 40-70 lbs. Unbraised	V-1, V-2 fiber box, sleeveless, 40-70 lbs. Braised	V-1, V-2 fiber box, sleeveless, 40-70 lbs. Unbraised
1	$8.81	$7.36	$8.79	$7.34	$8.73	$7.28
2	8.63	7.18	8.61	7.16	8.55	7.10
3	8.40	6.95	8.38	6.93	8.32	6.87
4	8.40	6.95	8.38	6.93	8.32	6.87
5	8.40	6.95	8.38	6.93	8.32	6.87
6	8.57	7.12	8.55	7.10	8.49	7.04
7	8.63	7.18	8.61	7.16	8.55	7.10
8	8.69	7.24	8.67	7.22	8.61	7.16
9	8.75	7.30	8.73	7.28	8.67	7.22
10	8.81	7.36	8.79	7.34	8.73	7.28

(c) The maximum prices for Miasnaia Tushonka (Beef Tushonka) prepared and canned in accordance with Commodity Credit Corporation specifications and using boneless beef of either cutter and canner grades or utility grade in accordance with C. Q. M. specifications for boneless beef for Army canned meats and sold to war procurement agencies, shall be the applicable base price specified in subparagraph (1) of this section 14 (c) for the grade of beef, size of can and type of shipping container used, plus the applicable zone differential specified in subparagraph (2) of this section 14 (c). Only for the purposes of this section 14 (c) the boundaries of the zones listed herein shall conform to the boundaries of the zones similarly numbered and defined in § 1364.452 of Revised Maximum Price Regulation No. 169.

(1) *Table of applicable base prices.* [NOTE: All prices are on a dollar per cwt. basis; include packaging or boxing costs, and are f.o.b. the seller's shipping point. The prices herein listed call for the product to be packed in lard, and if edible tallow is substituted for lard $0.50 per cwt. shall be deducted from the prices listed.]

(i) *Miasnaia Tushonka; produced from boneless cutter and canner beef and packed with lard:*

Shipping container	Price per cwt. in— 11¼-oz. tins	Price per cwt. in— 28-oz. tins
Nailed solid wood boxes	$34.45	$32.95
V-1, V-2 fiber boxes (with sleeves)	34.35	32.85
V-1, V-2 fiber boxes, sleeveless	34.10	32.60
V-3 solid fiber, corrugated fiber, or regular slotted, 4 straps each	33.95	32.45

(ii) *Miasnaia Tushonka; produced from boneless utility beef and packed with lard:*

Shipping container	Price per cwt. in— 11¼-oz. tins	Price per cwt. in— 28-oz. tins
Nailed solid wood boxes	$38.70	$37.20
V-1, V-2 fiber boxes (with sleeves)	38.60	37.10
V-1, V-2 fiber boxes, sleeveless	38.35	36.85
V-3 solid fiber, corrugated fiber, or regular slotted, 4 straps each	38.20	36.70

(2) *Table of zone differentials.* Depending upon the location of the seller's shipping point, the seller may add to the applicable base price per cwt. specified in subparagraph (1) of this section 14 (c) the applicable one of the following zone differentials:

Zone 1, $1.75; Zone 2, $1.00; Zone 3, (none); Zone 4, (none); Zone 5, (none); Zone 6, $.75; Zone 7, $1.00; Zone 8, $1.25; Zone 9, $1.50; and Zone 10, $1.75.

This amendment shall become effective March 15, 1945.

Less Steel Allocated for Cans

Second-quarter allocations of steel for the can manufacturing industry will be considerably less than the quantity requested, War Production Board officials told the Can Manufacturers Industry Advisory Committee at a recent meeting.

The WPB Requirements Committee has allocated 501,500 tons of prime steel plate and 15,000 tons of rejects to the can manufacturers for the second quarter, Containers Division representatives told the industry advisory committee members. The industry had requested more than 700,000 tons of prime plate for the quarter.

Members of the industry group pointed out that the allocations would not provide sufficient steel for the manufacture of the new cans permitted by the amendment of Order M-81, dated January 2, and that the steel supply might be insufficient for the manufacture of some other cans for military and essential food requirements.

Military requirements for cans this year are substantially larger than last year and are taxing the industry's facilities and steel supply to the utmost, committee members said. They pointed out that the armed services are specifying sanitary-type cans for the packing of a number of food items not previously packed in this type of can. These items include coffee, spices, lard and cereals. Because of the resultant burden on the facilities of large manufacturers equipped to produce sanitary cans, some committee members suggested that it might be desirable to have the armed services change these specifications to permit packing these food items in types of cans that smaller manufacturers are equipped to make.

O'Donnell Gets WFA Draft Post

Roger J. O'Donnell, of the War Food Administration Office of Labor, has been named the certifying officer to certify requests for occupational deferment of men under 30 employed in the canning industry as well as most of the other food industries of the nation, who were classified 2-A or 2-B on January 1 of this year. WFA has been authorized by the Selective Service System to recommend for deferment men under 30 engaged in most food industries. (See Supplement to INFORMATION LETTER No. 1025.)